

Mammals of Texas – Taxonomic Diversity Review
(excluding marine mammals)

Species in bold range in at least part of Travis County.

TES = Listed as Threatened or Endangered Species, state (TX) or federal (US)

DIDELPHIMORPHA (American marsupials)

DIDELPHIDAE (American opossums)

North and South America. Plantigrade with opposable hallux (big toe); prehensile tail; most (including *Didelphis*) with marsupium; arboreal; nocturnal/crepuscular; solitary; omnivorous.

***Didelphis virginiana*, Virginia opossum**

XENARTHRA (armadillos, sloths, and anteaters)

DASYPODIDAE (armadillos)

Western hemisphere. Numerous simple peg-like teeth (*Dasypus* typically has 28-32 total) lacking enamel, open-rooted; dermal armor with epidermal scales; terrestrial, burrowing, solitary, and omnivorous.

***Dasypus novemcinctus*, Nine-banded armadillo**

LIPOTYPHLA (shrews, moles, solenodons, hedgehogs)

SORICIDAE (shrews)

Nearly worldwide, absent from Australia and most of South America. Small terrestrial insectivores, some semiaquatic. Active year-round. Teeth are often pigmented. Some are venomous. Plantigrade. *Blarina* and *Sorex* exhibit rudimentary echolocation (high-pitched laryngeal pulses) to find prey.

Blarina carolinensis, Southern short-tailed shrew

Blarina hylophaga, Elliot's short-tailed shrew

***Cryptotis parva*, Least shrew**

Notiosorex crawfordi, Desert shrew

TALPIDAE (moles)

Northern Hemisphere. Fossorial insectivores, some semiaquatic. Active year-round. Postcranial skeleton, especially pectoral girdle, highly modified for digging. Dig permanent tunnel systems for foraging. Touch receptors in snout.

***Scalopus aquaticus*, Eastern mole**

CHIROPTERA (bats)

MORMOOPIDAE (mustached or leaf-chinned bats)

SW US, West Indies to Brazil. Flap of skin on lower lip; insectivorous; mouth emitters; tropical in distribution.

Mormoops megalophylla, Ghost-faced bat

PHYLLOSTOMIDAE (New World leaf-nosed bats)

SW US, West Indies, south to northern Argentina. Most diverse family of bats, with species feeding on insects, nectar, small vertebrates, fruit, pollen, blood. Named for conspicuous leaf-like structure on nose; nose-emitters.

Leptonycteris nivalis, Mexican long-nosed bat – TES:US

Choeronycteris mexicana, Mexican long-tongued bat

Diphylla ecaudata, Hairy-legged vampire bat

VESPERTILIONIDAE (vesper or evening bats)

Cosmopolitan. Largest family of bats in terms of number and geographical distribution. Small, rather “plain-looking”. Most are insectivorous, some prey on fish or arthropods. Mouth emitters.

Myotis austroriparius, Southeastern myotis

Myotis californicus, California myotis

Myotis ciliolabrum, Western small-footed myotis

Myotis occultus, Southwestern little brown bat

Myotis septentrionalis, Northern long-eared myotis

Myotis thysanodes, Fringed myotis

***Myotis velifer*, Cave myotis**

Myotis volans, Long-legged myotis

Myotis yumanensis, Yuma myotis

***Lasiurus noctivagans*, Silver-haired bat**

Pipistrellus hesperus, Western pipistrelle

***Pipistrellus subflavus*, Eastern pipistrelle**

***Eptesicus fuscus*, Big brown bat**

Lasiurus blossevillii, Western red bat

***Lasiurus borealis*, Eastern red bat**

***Lasiurus cinereus*, Hoary bat**

Lasiurus ega, Southern yellow bat – TES:TX

***Lasiurus intermedius*, Northern yellow bat**

Lasiurus seminolus, Seminole bat

Lasiurus xanthinus, Western yellow bat

***Nycticeius humeralis*, Evening bat**

Euderma maculatum, Spotted bat – TES:TX

Corynorhinus (Plecotus) rafinesquii, Rafinesque’s big-eared bat – TES:TX

Corynorhinus (Plecotus) townsendii, Townsend’s big-eared bat

Antrozous pallidus, Pallid bat

MOLOSSIDAE (free-tailed bats)

Found in warmer areas of both western and eastern hemispheres. Tail extends well beyond posterior edge of uropatagium; broad ears; insectivorous; mouth emitters; long-distance flyers.

***Tadarida brasiliensis*, Brazilian (Mexican) free-tailed bat**

Nyctinomops femorosaccus, Pocketed free-tailed bat

Nyctinomops macrotis, Big free-tailed bat

Eumops perotis, Western mastiff bat

CARNIVORA (dogs, cats, bears, raccoons, weasels, skunks, hyaenas, civets, mongooses, pinnipeds)

CANIDAE (dogs, wolves, coyotes, foxes, jackals)

Worldwide (introduced into Australia); terrestrial, cursorial, digitigrade; carnivores/omnivores; pair bonds and packs. Skull often with elongate rostrum (molars may be 1-2/2 in some genera).

***Canis latrans*, Coyote**

Canis lupus, Gray wolf – TES:US (extirpated from Texas by 1970)

Canis rufus, Red wolf – TES:US (Texas population removed from wild 1973-1980)

Vulpes macrotis, Kit fox

Vulpes velox, Swift fox

***Vulpes vulpes*, Red fox**

***Urocyon cinereoargenteus*, Gray fox**

URSIDAE (bears, including giant panda)

North and South America, Eurasia. Terrestrial/arboreal omnivores/carnivores/folivore; plantigrade; solitary. Dental formula usually 2-3/3 • 1/1 • 4/4 • 2/3; postcanine teeth bunodont with “wrinkled” enamel.

Ursus americanus, American black bear – TES:US (eastern populations); TES:TX (western populations)

Ursus arctos, Brown (Grizzly) bear – TES:US (extinct in Texas late 1890s)

PROCYONIDAE (raccoons, ringtails, coatis, olingo, kinkajou)

North and South America (Northern raccoon introduced into Europe); terrestrial/arboreal; carnivores/omnivores/frugivores; usually plantigrade. Most are solitary, coatis form social groups. Dental formula usually 3/3 • 1/1 • 3/4 • 2/1-3, bunodont postcanine teeth.

***Bassariscus astutus*, Ringtail**

***Procyon lotor*, Northern raccoon**

Nasua narica, White-nosed coati – TES:TX

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MUSTELIDAE (badgers, weasels, wolverines, otters)

Worldwide (introduced into Australia); terrestrial/arboreal/aquatic; mostly carnivores; mostly solitary. Anal scent glands in all except sea otter. Plantigrade to digitigrade. Dental formula usually $3/3 \cdot 1/1 \cdot 2-3/2-3 \cdot 1/2$, upper molar may be dumb-bell to triangular to square-shaped in outline.

***Mustela frenata*, Long-tailed weasel**

Mustela nigripes, Black-footed ferret – TES:US (extirpated from TX by mid-1960s)

***Neovison vison*, American mink**

***Taxidea taxus*, American badger**

***Lontra canadensis*, Northern river otter**

MEPHITIDAE (skunks and stink badger)

North and South America, Indonesia and Philippines; terrestrial; carnivores/omnivores. Plantigrade. Aposematic coloration and anal scent gland with nipple; solitary. Dental formula $3/3 \cdot 1/1 \cdot 2-3/2-3 \cdot 1/2$

Spilogale gracilis, Western spotted skunk

***Spilogale putorius*, Eastern spotted skunk**

Mephitis macroura, Hooded skunk

***Mephitis mephitis*, Striped skunk**

***Conepatus leuconotus*, White-backed hog-nosed skunk**

FELIDAE (cats, panthers, puma)

Worldwide (introduced into Australia); terrestrial/arboreal; carnivores (real meat specialists). Digitigrade with retractile claws. Mostly solitary (except for lions and some domestic cats). Dental formula $3/3 \cdot 1/1 \cdot 2-3/1-2 \cdot 1/1$, upper molar very small or absent.

Leopardus pardalis, Ocelot – TES:US

Leopardus wiedii, Margay – TES:US (never common, extinct in TX – single specimen taken near Eagle Pass before 1852)

***Lynx rufus*, Bobcat**

Panthera onca, Jaguar – TES:US (extirpated from Texas by mid-1950s)

***Puma concolor*, Puma (Mountain lion)**

Puma (Herpailurus) yagouaroundi, Jaguarundi – TES:US

ARTIODACTYLA (pigs, peccaries, deer, camels, pronghorn, cattle, sheep, goats, giraffes, hippos)

SUIDAE (hogs and pigs)

Eurasia and Africa, introduced into the Americas; omnivorous; social groups (mostly female). Thick-skinned, sparsely haired. Skull is long, sometimes “dished” in profile, with elongate curving canines that are ever-growing. Cranial sutures present through life, rostral bone present. Bunodont cheek teeth.

***Sus scrofa*, Feral hog (Domestic pig or Wild boar) – introduced statewide**

TAYASSUIDAE (peccaries)

SW US to central Argentina. Herbivorous, but will eat terrestrial insects; multi-male/female social groups. Upper canines straight, pointing downward, interlocking with lowers. Cranial sutures obliterated in adults. Bunodont cheek teeth. Musk gland on rump.

***Pecari tajacu*, Collared peccary, (Javelina)**

CERVIDAE (deer, elk, moose, caribou, muntjac)

Americas, Eurasia, and northern Africa, introduced widely. Folivores, some solitary, but most form large groups of females (males join group during mating). Antlers in males only (except for caribou/reindeer), which are grown and shed annually. Selenodont (crescent-shape on occlusal surface) cheek teeth.

Odocoileus hemionus, Mule deer

***Odocoileus virginianus*, White-tailed deer**

Cervus elaphus (canadensis), Elk – Native population extirpated by 1900, now reintroduced in West Texas

Cervus nippon, Sika deer – Introduced exotic free-ranging in parts of Central and South Texas

***Axis axis*, Axis deer (Chital) – Introduced exotic free-ranging in parts of Central and South Texas**

Dama dama, Fallow deer – Introduced exotic free-ranging in parts of Central Texas

BOVIDAE (bison, cattle, sheep, goats, antelopes)

Most diverse ungulate group, found throughout Africa, much of Eurasia, and parts of North America. Folivorous, some solitary, most in female groups or multimale/female groups. Bony horn cores with permanent sheaths in many species and in both sexes. Selenodont and high-crowned cheek teeth.

Bison bison, American bison – Texas State Bison Herd at Caprock Canyons State Park

Boselaphus tragocamelus, Nilgai – Introduced exotic free-ranging in South Texas

Antilope cervicapra, Blackbuck – Introduced exotic free-ranging in parts of Central Texas

Ovis canadensis, Bighorn sheep – Native population extirpated by 1960, now reintroduced

Ammotragus lervia, Aoudad (Barbary sheep) – Introduced exotic free-ranging in parts of Central Texas

ANTILOCAPRIDAE (pronghorns)

Represented by one extant species, found in open country from central Canada to north-central Mexico, including Baja California. Folivorous; female groups which males join during breeding season. High speed endurance runner. Bony, flattened horn cores with sharp anterior edge; sheaths are forked and shed annually. Female horns are shorter and simpler in structure.

Antilocapra americana, Pronghorn – Formerly ranged throughout Travis County

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RODENTIA (mice, rats, squirrels, gophers, beaver, porcupines, cavies, capybaras)

SCIURIDAE (squirrels, chipmunks, prairie dogs, marmots)

Worldwide except for Australian region, Madagascar, and polar regions. Most are arboreal and omnivorous, some are fossorial and herbivorous. Active during the day (with some exceptions, such as *Glaucomys*). Some hibernate.

Tamias canipes, Gray-footed chipmunk

Ammospermophilus interpres, Texas antelope squirrel

***Ictidomys parvidens*, Rio Grande ground squirrel**

Xerospermophilus spilosoma, Spotted ground squirrel

Ictidomys tridecemlineatus, Thirteen-lined ground squirrel

***Otospermophilus variegatus*, Rock squirrel**

Cynomys ludovicianus, Black-tailed prairie dog

***Sciurus carolinensis*, Eastern gray squirrel**

***Sciurus niger*, Eastern fox squirrel**

Glaucomys volans, Southern flying squirrel

GEOMYIDAE (pocket gophers)

Saskatchewan south to northern Columbia. Highly fossorial, with powerful clawed forelimbs. Herbivorous. Large, ever-growing incisors are outside the mouth when lips close. External fur-lined cheek pouches for carrying food.

Thomomys bottae, Botta's pocket gopher

Geomys arenarius, Desert pocket gopher

***Geomys attwateri*, Attwater's pocket gopher**

Geomys breviceps, Baird's pocket gopher

Geomys bursarius, Plains pocket gopher

Geomys knoxjonesi, Jones's pocket gopher

Geomys personatus, Texas pocket gopher

Geomys streckeri, Strecker's pocket gopher

Geomys texensis, Llano pocket gopher

Cratogeomys castanops, Yellow-faced pocket gopher

HETEROMYIDAE (*kangaroo rats and pocket mice*)

Southern Canada through western US to Ecuador, Columbia and Venezuela; most diverse in arid and semi-arid regions. Specialized for jumping. Granivorous. Fur-lined cheek pouches for carrying food. Large auditory bullae for increased auditory sensitivity.

Perognathus flavescens, Plains pocket mouse

Perognathus flavus, Silky pocket mouse

***Perognathus merriami*, Merriam's pocket mouse**

Chaetodipus eremicus, Chihuahuan Desert pocket mouse

***Chaetodipus hispidus*, Hispid pocket mouse**

Chaetodipus intermedius, Rock pocket mouse

Chaetodipus nelsoni, Nelson's pocket mouse

Dipodomys compactus, Gulf Coast kangaroo rat
Dipodomys elator, Texas kangaroo rat – TES:TX
Dipodomys merriami, Merriam's kangaroo rat
Dipodomys ordii, Ord's pocket mouse
Dipodomys spectabilis, Banner-tailed kangaroo rat
Liomys irroratus, Mexican spiny pocket mouse

CASTORIDAE (beavers)

Only two extant species, one in North America and the other in northern Eurasia. Large semi-aquatic rodents that consume bark, cambium and fibrous vegetation. Broad, flat and hairless tail. Modify their environment by felling trees and building dams.

***Castor canadensis*, American beaver**

MURIDAE (rats, mice, voles, lemmings, gerbils, hamsters)

Sigmodontinae (Neotropical rats and mice)

Subarctic to tropical habitats; fossorial/terrestrial/semi-aquatic/arboreal.

Herbivorous/granivorous/carnivorous. 422 species.

Oryzomys couesi, Coues' rice rat – TES:TX

Oryzomys palustris, Marsh rice rat

***Reithrodontomys fulvescens*, Fulvous harvest mouse**

Reithrodontomys humulis, Eastern harvest mouse

Reithrodontomys megalotis, Western harvest mouse

***Reithrodontomys montanus*, Plains harvest mouse**

***Peromyscus attwateri*, Texas mouse**

Peromyscus boylii, Brush mouse

Peromyscus eremicus, Cactus mouse

Peromyscus gossypinus, Cotton mouse

***Peromyscus leucopus*, White-footed mouse**

***Peromyscus maniculatus*, Deer mouse**

Peromyscus nasutus, Northern rock mouse

***Peromyscus pectoralis*, White-ankled mouse**

Peromyscus truei, Pinyon mouse – TES:TX (subspecies *comanche*)

Ochrotomys nuttalli, Golden mouse

***Baiomys taylori*, Northern pygmy mouse**

Onychomys arenicola, Mearns' grasshopper mouse

Onychomys leucogaster, Northern grasshopper mouse

Sigmodon fulviventor, Tawny-bellied cotton rat

***Sigmodon hispidus*, Hispid cotton rat**

Sigmodon ochrognathus, Yellow-nosed cotton rat

***Neotoma floridana*, Eastern woodrat**

Neotoma leucodon, Eastern white-throated woodrat

Neotoma mexicana, Mexican woodrat

***Neotoma micropus*, Southern plains woodrat – western Travis Co.**

Murinae (Old World rats and mice)

Nearly worldwide, introduced into New World; fossorial/terrestrial/semi-aquatic/arboreal. Herbivorous/granivorous/omnivorous. 529 species.

***Rattus norvegicus*, Norway rat – introduced statewide**

***Rattus rattus*, Roof (Black) rat – introduced statewide**

***Mus musculus*, House mouse – introduced statewide**

Arvicolinae (voles, lemmings, muskrats)

Northern Hemisphere; fossorial/terrestrial/semi-aquatic/arboreal.

Herbivorous/granivorous. Short tails. Cheek teeth have a complex occlusal pattern. 143 species.

Microtus mexicanus, Mexican vole

Microtus ochrogaster, Prairie vole

***Microtus pinetorum*, Woodland vole – northern Travis Co.**

Ondatra zibethicus, Muskrat

ERETHIZONTIDAE (New World porcupines)

Arctic south to northern parts of South America. Terrestrial/arboreal; herbivorous. Large body size, heavily built, with quills on at least part of the body. Soles of feet broad with tubercles for traction.

***Erethizon dorsatum*, North American porcupine**

MYOCASTORIDAE (Nutria)

Native to South America but introduced worldwide. Single extant species.

Terrestrial/semi-aquatic; feeds on bark, cambium, and fibrous vegetation. Large, “rat-tailed” rodent with fine dense underfur.

***Myocastor coypus*, Nutria (Coypu) – introduced eastern two-thirds of the state**

LAGOMORPHA (rabbits, hares, pikas)

LEPORIDAE (rabbits and hares)

Native to much of the Americas, Eurasia, and North Africa, now introduced worldwide. Terrestrial and folivorous. Highly cursorial, great leaping capabilities. Elongate hindlimbs, latticed skull. Second upper incisors small and peg-like, situated behind first upper incisors (a characteristic of all lagomorphs).

***Sylvilagus aquaticus*, Swamp rabbit**

Sylvilagus audubonii, Desert cottontail

***Sylvilagus floridanus*, Eastern cottontail**

Sylvilagus robustus, Davis Mountains cottontail

***Lepus californicus*, Black-tailed jackrabbit**